

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

SENATE MEMORIAL 74

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Eric G. Griego

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THREE AGENCIES COOPERATE TO STUDY THE
FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A NEW MEXICO VETERANS COURT.

WHEREAS, New Mexico is home to more than one hundred
eighty thousand veterans, some ten thousand of them Native
Americans, according to the veterans' services department; and

WHEREAS, most of those veterans have served during
wartime, including almost forty thousand who served in Iraq or
Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, military veterans in New Mexico have an estimated
economic impact of more than one billion dollars
(\$1,000,000,000), according to the veterans' services
department; and

WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury
from wartime engagement, substance abuse and psychological

underscoring material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 problems may be more common among combat veterans upon their
2 return home; and

3 WHEREAS, these problems may cause a formerly law-abiding
4 veteran to commit infractions of the law; and

5 WHEREAS, some states and local communities have started
6 veterans courts to divert veterans who commit crimes into
7 programs directed at recovery from addictions, mental illness,
8 post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury; and

9 WHEREAS, many of the veterans courts result from concerns
10 that the numbers of returning soldiers will only increase for
11 some years to come; and

12 WHEREAS, a significant number of veterans courts involve
13 job-placement services and psychological counseling as part of
14 their jail-diversion programming; and

15 WHEREAS, the states and local communities with veterans
16 courts have predicted that significant savings will result from
17 diverting veterans from expensive incarceration to socially
18 productive programs that will aid society as they aid veterans;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
20 OF NEW MEXICO that the administrative office of the courts, the
21 veterans' services department and the department of military
22 affairs commence a joint study of the feasibility of
23 establishing a New Mexico veterans court, including an analysis
24 of projected caseloads and costs for the purpose of providing
25 just and constructive interventions for United States combat

.178208.2

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 veterans alleged to have broken the law when the alleged
2 infraction is possibly related to traumatic brain injury or
3 behavioral health issues; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the three agencies write a
5 report and present it to the appropriate interim legislative
6 committee by October 1, 2009; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the director of the administrative office of the
9 courts, the secretary of veterans' services and the adjutant
10 general of New Mexico.

11 - 3 -
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25